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28 December 1964

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

State Dept. review completed

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28 December 1964

Congo: Tshombé is strongly opposed to any cease-fire agreement.

The Congo premier told a US Embassy official that the cease-fire proposal now in a resolution to go before the UN Security Council was "completely unacceptable" to him. He predicted that the rest of his cabinet and President Kasavubu would be similarly opposed. Tshombé has subsequently instructed his representative in New York to try, "at all costs," to get the cease-fire section deleted from the proposed resolution.

Tshombé said that "everybody" in Africa would consider his agreement to a cease-fire as a political defeat for him. He said that a cease-fire could not be enforced, would result in a de facto partition of the Congo, and would only give the rebels time to strengthen their position.

The premier said the basic problem was to defeat and disperse the rebels. He felt this could be done if the US and other Western allies would continue to support him. If this help could not be obtained, Tshombé said that he would "try to find other means of coping with the Congo problem"--probably implying he may seek help from South Africa and Portugal.

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the President firmly supports Tshombé's position of no compromise with the rebels and feels that Tshombé is the only man capable and strong enough to continue the fight.

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South Vietnam: The issues between the Vietnamese military and the civilian government of Premier Huong are still unresolved.

General Khanh and the "young Turks" appear determined to stand by their dissolution of the High National Council. They are still holding several HNC members as hostages. Huong, while inclined to seek a compromise solution, is demanding the prompt release of these political prisoners.

Although the military leaders appear unified in defense of their interference in the government, there are signs that support for General Khanh's anti-American bent is far from unanimous. General Thi, one of the leaders of the "young Turks," told the US consul in Hué on 25 December that Khanh's criticisms of the US did not represent the feelings of the younger generals.

The resumption this week end of open Buddhist opposition to Huong has added new complications. The Buddhists accuse Huong of continuing to be anti-Buddhist, and they are blaming him for an attack by hoodlums on the Buddhist Institute in Saigon Friday night. Although Tri Quang and other Buddhist leaders say that there is still room for negotiations with the government, it appears that their real aim is Huong's removal.

The Communists may be making a special effort to exploit the political troubles in Saigon. A Liberation Front broadcast on 24 December urged "compatriots" to spearhead the political struggle in the cities against Americans. Yesterday, four US military personnel and a US civilian photographer were wounded by a terrorist grenade thrown into a restaurant in a provincial town fifty miles southwest of Saigon. [redacted]

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